

**Minutes of a Special Session of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale
Held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. (Hybrid meeting in person and via
Video-Conferencing)**

A Special Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 3:00 P.M.

Town Council:

Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer
Vice Mayor Debbie Hunseder
Councilmember Bill Regner
Councilmember Marney Babbitt-Pierce (via Zoom)
Councilmember Lisa O'Neill

Town Staff:

Interim Town Manager Rob Sweeney
Community Development Director Ruth Mayday
Parks and Recreation Supervisor Joni Westcott
Police Chief Randy Taylor
Town Clerk Mary Ellen Dunn

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order at 3:02 P.M. by Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer.

Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer noted that there would be no Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Town Council invites the public to provide comments at this time. Members of the Council may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Persons interested in making a comment on a specific agenda item are asked to complete a brief form and submit it to the Town Clerk during the meeting. Each speaker is asked to limit their comments to five minutes.

There was no public comment.

REPORTS –

Departmental Reports (submitted with Council packet) - Summary of written Reports from Town Departments and Other Agencies

Building Permit Report – September 2021
Capital Improvements Report – None
Magistrate Court Report – September 2021
Water and Wastewater Report – September 2021
Recycling Center on Main Street Report 2018-2021
Police Department Report – September 2021

CAT/LYNX Transit Report – None
Verde Valley Humane Society – August 2021

CONSENT AGENDA - The consent agenda portion of the agenda is a means of expediting routine matters that must be acted on by the Council. All items are approved with one motion. Any items may be removed for discussion at the request of any Council Member.

- A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding Allocation –**
Approval to apply for the Town of Clarkdale's quadrennial allocation of CDBG funds as administered by the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), the State of Arizona and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Action: Approve Consent Agenda item A as presented.

Motion: Vice Mayor Hunseder

Second: Council Member Regner

Vote:

Voting Member	Aye/Nay
Council Member Babbitt-Pierce	Aye
Vice Mayor Hunseder	Aye
Council Member O'Neill	Aye
Council Member Bill Regner	Aye
Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer	Aye

NEW BUSINESS

THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (IRC) UPDATE AND POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS – Discussion and possible action regarding an update to the redistricting status and the Town's communications to the IRC.

The Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) will redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census. The concept of one-person, one-vote dictates that districts should be roughly equal in population. Other factors to be considered are the federal Voting Rights Act, district shape, geographical features, respect for communities of interest and potential competitiveness. The state Constitution requires the Commissioners, two Republicans, two Democrats, and an independent Chairperson, to start from scratch rather than redraw existing districts.

A new Arizona IRC was appointed in January 2021 to adopt new congressional and legislative districts for Arizona. A comprehensive website is being used to inform the public about its work.

The IRC held 15 public meetings around the State over a four-week period this summer to take public comment. On July 20, 2021, the Town Council approved a 'Community of Interest' statement to support the unique needs of the Verde Valley communities. The statement (attached) was delivered to the IRC on July 27, 2021 at their meeting (satellite) in Sedona.

Currently, the Verde Valley is in the same legislative district but not the same congressional district. Verde Valley communities work collectively on several levels, i.e., intergovernmental, with Verde Front, the Verde Valley Mayors and Managers meetings and the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The IRC uses a four-phase approach in redrawing legislative and congressional districts and encourages public participation throughout. IRC completed the first phase over a month ago with the release of grid maps. Per the IRC, "Grid maps are the constitutionally mandated starting point in Arizona's redistricting process. This is to ensure that each Independent Redistricting Commission starts from scratch rather than simply modifying existing districts. Grid maps reflect only two of the six criteria the commissioners are required to consider: equal population and compactness/contiguousness." The IRC held, 'Listening Tours' regarding the grid maps last month.

The second phase continues this month whereby the IRC considers the legally required six criteria, including communities of interest, connectivity and competitiveness, in the creation of draft legislative and congressional maps. The IRC will vote to approve maps which will be subject to a 30-day public comment period, during the third phase. Public comment will be accepted at a number of public hearings to be held throughout the state, with dates and times to be determined.

The fourth and final phase is where the IRC finalizes and approves the final legislative and congressional districts. Per the IRC, this phase is expected to be completed in December 2021.

Mayor Prud'homme-Bauer presented maps and further information on this topic to Council. Council discussion followed. Council Member Regner expressed preference that both Congressional and Legislative districts be competitive and that the Verde Valley remain whole. Vice Mayor Hunseder expressed concern about the Town Council as a non-partisan body states preference on behalf of the Verde Valley. Regner read his edited version of the Community of Interest statement made by Council in July 2021. The requests in order of priority are 1) keeping the Verde Valley whole and 2) making the district competitive. Regner stated that the Coconino County map LD-0013 would be an example of a competitive district if it was inclusive of all of Camp Verde/Verde Valley.

Action: Make necessary modifications to Community of Interest statement per council comments reiterating support and adding consideration for competitiveness of district similar to map of Coconino County district #5 map LD-0013 if inclusive of geographical entirety of the Verde Valley.

Motion: Council Member Regner

Second: Council Member O'Neill

Vote:

Voting Member	Aye/Nay
Council Member Marney Babbitt-Pierce	Aye
Vice Mayor Debbie Hunseder	Aye
Council Member Lisa O'Neill	Aye
Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer	Aye
Council Member Bill Regner	Aye

BROADBAND EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT IN CLARKDALE – Discussion and possible action regarding presentations by the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO) and Yavapai County staff to Council regarding broadband.

Improvements in broadband capability are an important issue to the Town Council and community. Greater access to broadband and improved service is a significant driver to future economic growth and stability of the community. The Town Council authorized \$75,000 over the next three years in the capital improvement plan for broadband projects. Additionally, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allows for communities to utilize ARPA funds to improve broadband capability in the community.

At its June 22, 2021, the Town Council received a presentation from Mary Chicoine, Executive Director of the Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization (VVREO), regarding the current status of broadband improvement projects in the Verde Valley. The presentation included the next steps in applying for grant funding, design/development work and operational consideration of the Middle Mile Network.

Yavapai County staff approach incorporated communities in the County regarding a Board of Supervisors-approved initiative to leverage ARPA funding in support of expanding affordable broadband for County residents. On August 30, 2021, Town staff met with Stan Goligoski, Executive Director of Yavapai County Educational Service Agency Support Services and Corey Christians, Director/County Librarian of the Yavapai County Free Library District regarding the project and requested they come speak to the Town Council about the County's project and proposal.

Yavapai County issued a Request for Proposal to the vendor community for its project on October 13, 2021. Responses are due back to County personnel by December 2, 2021 for consideration.

This item was tabled to wait for Yavapai County staff arrival.

Yavapai County Staff, Stan Goligoski and Corey Christians presented broadband information to Council followed by Mary Chicoine from VVREO and Council discussion.

(Council Member Babbitt-Pierce excused herself from the meeting.)

Council asked what the \$210,000 buy-in would include and would agreements with the ISP be individually contracted by each municipality. There would be an IGA between the County and the Town of Clarkdale as well as the agreement with the ISP. Town roll out participation roles were discussed. The Mayor stated that the Town would want to be a part of that roll out discussion. Further discussion included the end of a 5-year contract period and what would the obligation be of the ISP in honoring prices or keeping prices competitive.

Council asked if the two projects (Yavapai County and VVREO) could work together to bring the broadband into Yavapai County. Both agreed it may be possible down the road as the project evolves. Council agreed that we need more information before committing to the \$210,000, continue to move forward, and find ways to work together rather than in competition with each other.

The Mayor stated that she wondered if a small Council adhoc committee on broadband would be appropriate.

Action: No Council action is taken at this time. Work should continue on the RFP language and Council encouraged entities to continue forward movement on the project.

PURCHASE OF WELL REPLACEMENT PUMPS FOR HASKELL SPRINGS AND MOUNTAIN GATE WELLS – Discussion and consideration of a staff recommendation to purchase well pumps from K. P. Ventures, to replace well pumps for the Haskell Springs and Mountain Gate Wells, and authorization for the Public Works-Utilities Director to negotiate a contract with K. P. Enterprises.

Drinking water for the Town of Clarkdale is produced from the Haskell Springs and Mountain Gate wells. Each well alone is incapable of meeting the Town's water demands. The existing pumps are approaching their life expectancy. To ensure uninterrupted water supply, replacement pumps are required to be immediately available. Our suppliers advise that lead times for pumps are increasing due to manufacturing shortages. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the Town to have replacement pumps on hand.

KP Venture and Enviro Tech Electrical Solutions provided quotes for supplying replacement pumps matching the performance demands of each well. Both companies have experience with the Town's water systems and the Town is familiar with their work and products. Presently there are no other companies in the area with comparable capability.

KP Venture uses Franklin pumps and motors which are matching the existing pump kind for kind, thus eliminating any potential conflicts or issues which may stem from blending brands. Enviro Tech uses Wilo pumps which produce less water at higher energy demands thereby costing more to operate and reducing the pump's life expectancy.

Quotes

Vendor	K P Ventures	Enviro Tech
Haskell Springs	\$10,600.00	\$7,030.10
Mountain Gate	\$44,341.50	\$21,697.82
TOTAL	\$54,914.50	\$28,727.92

Funding for the purchase of the pumps comes from the Town's Capital Improvement Plan using American Rescue Plan Act infrastructure funds.

Interim Town Manager Rob Sweeney presented the information on this item to Council.

Action: Authorize the Public Works-Utilities Director to purchase replacement pumps from KP Venture as quoted and providing the Town Manager reasonable discretion to negotiate any potential price increase from quotation due to unprecedented supply chain challenges.

Motion: Vice Mayor Hunseder

Second: Council Member Regner

Vote:

Voting Member	Aye/Nay
Council Member Marney Babbitt-Pierce	na
Vice Mayor Debbie Hunseder	Aye
Council Member Lisa O'Neill	Aye
Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer	Aye
Council Member Bill Regner	Aye

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - Listing of items to be placed on a future council agenda.


- United Verde Soil Program updates
- Report on removing Verde dam out of Verde River (November 9th) – Work session and discussion – no action

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection Mayor Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer adjourned the meeting at 5:10 P.M.

APPROVED:


Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Mayor


ATTESTED/SUBMITTED:


Mary-Ellen Dunn, Town Clerk**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Clarkdale, Arizona held on the 26th day of October 2021. I further certify that meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 10th day of November 2021.

SEAL


Mary Ellen Dunn, Town Clerk